The Decision to Drop the Atomic Bomb

1. Harry S. Truman (1955) – he believed it would cost millions of lives to invade Japan, the atomic weapons were safer. (Churchill and Truman’s senior military advisors had the same view; also McCullough, Lamby, Donovan)
2. Herbert Feis (1966) – he argued that Truman wanted to ensure a speedy American victory.
3. P.M.S. Blackett (1948) – said that the destruction of the two Japanese cities was “not so much the last military act of the second World War as the first major operation of the cold diplomatic war with Russia.”
4. Gar Alperovitz (1965+1995) – he believed that Japan would have already surrendered, that the bomb was to make Russia more “manageable”. (Also the view of a less critical historian, Martin J. Sherwin).
5. John W. Dower (1986) – he argues that America saw the Japanese as a subhuman species, that this was the reason of why to drop the bomb.

I agree with Gar Alperovitz in this debate. The Japanese were on the verge of losing, surrendering would have been a good option for them, in Russia, Stalin has become more “distinct”, so after seeing the power of the bomb, we would become more controlled; the atomic bombs would help to intimidate Russia.